

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a system for managing the information for the network components including hardware devices such as routers, switches, and the like, an apparatus and method is disclosed, which allows not only the current network configuration information but also the future network configuration information to be stored, wherein the future network configuration information reflects the future facilities planning considerations and may be derived from the current network configuration information.

The system includes a directory server on which a current map tree and a temporary map tree are stored, wherein the current map tree contains the current network configuration information organized into a tree structure, and the temporary map tree only contains the information for any components, organized into a tree structure, for which the configuration changes are expected to occur in the future. The future network configuration information may be obtained by merging the information in the current map tree together with the information in the temporary map tree that may be setup up to any future time as specified.

The system further includes means that responds to the request for the network configuration information that is applicable to any future time from any external requester, such as applications or users, for issuing a request to search the trees including the directory entries that reside in the current map tree and temporary map tree stored in the directory server and

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